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Ontario Women's Directorate

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INVESTMENT IN PILOT PROGRAM FOR ABUSED WOMEN MEANS BETTER ACCESS TO FINANCIAL AND EDUCATIONAL TOOLS

Will Help Vulnerable Women Become Economically Independent

TORONTO – The McGuinty government is funding a pilot program to help increase the personal security and economic independence of vulnerable women, Sandra Pupatello, Minister Responsible for Women's Issues, announced today.

"Giving vulnerable women access to financial and educational tools can mean the difference not only between poverty and comfort, but between fear and safety," said Pupatello. "By helping women to live free of fear and violence and become economically independent, we are also building strong, safe communities across Ontario."

The $308,160 investment is part of the McGuinty government's comprehensive, four-year $66-million Domestic Violence Action Plan and is being provided to the Canadian Women's Foundation for the implementation and evaluation of a pilot program to be run in six centres across Ontario. The pilot will build on work by the Canadian Women's Foundation to help vulnerable women gain the knowledge and skills they need to lead productive, economically independent lives.

"We are thrilled that the government recognizes the importance of investing in vulnerable women's futures," said Beverley Wybrow, Executive Director of the Canadian Women's Foundation. "The entire community benefits when a woman has the skills, knowledge and confidence to be economically independent and lead the life of her choosing."

The pilot will apply long-established community development techniques to help vulnerable women understand key factors that will enable them to reduce their vulnerability to abuse and poverty.

The pilot will run in six centres across Ontario: Maggie's Resource Centre (Bancroft); Sistering - A Woman's Place (Toronto); Oasis Centre des femmes (Toronto); Niijkiwendidaa Anishnaabe-Kwewag Services Circle (Peterborough); Women's Place Kenora (Kenora); and WoodGreen Community Services (Toronto).

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Contacts:
Gillian Slaughter, Minister's Office, (416) 325-8850
Mary Dowding-Paré, Communications Branch, (416) 314-7230

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